

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01
INRE-00 SSO-00 MCT-01 CU-04 /081 W
-----095978 191218Z /23

O R 191051Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5120

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12337

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BENAZIR BHUTTO UNDER HOUSE ARREST: SMALL PRO-BHUTTO
DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 12306

1. THE FORMER PM'S DAUGHTER, BENAZIR BHUTTO WAS PLACED UNDER HOUSE
ARREST FOR SEVEN DAYS DECEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AN
ORDER ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE IN LAHORE SAID THAT
BENAZIR'S STATEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAD "TENDED TO
DISRUPT PUBLIC PEACE". THE ORDER SPECIFICALLY CITED THE
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RUMBLE AT THE CRICKET TEST MATCH DECEMBER 16 (REFTEL). THE
MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION ALSO HAS ARRESTED SHEIKH RAFIQ,
PRESIDENT OF THE PUNJAB PPP, FOR MAKING PROVOCATIVE
SPEECHES.

2. DISTURBANCES TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 18 IN BOTH RAWALPINDI
AND KARACHI AND RESULTED IN APPROXIMATELY 36 ARRESTS. IN

PINDI, A SMALL GROUP OF PPP WOMEN WORKERS TOOK OUT A PROCESSION, ILLEGAL UNDER MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS, AND WERE INTERCEPTED BY POLICE. A TUSSLE ENSUED BETWEEN THE WOMEN AND THE POLICE WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WAS SOON JOINED BY 20-25 MALE "MISCREANTS". THE POLICE USED LATHIS AND TEARGAS TO DISPERSE THE CROWD. THE MALE DEMONSTRATORS LATER REAPPEARED IN ANOTHER PART OF THE DOWNTON AREA AND SET FIRE TO A BUS. THE POLICE ARRESTED TEN PERSONS.

3. IN KARACHI, THE PRESS REPORTS THAT 70 TO 80 WOMEN SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE OF A PPP WOMAN'S ORGANIZER AND BEGAN A ROUND OF PRO-PPP CHANTS. IN THE AFTERNOON, THE WOMAN'S GROUP, BOLSTERED BY A REPORTED 100 TO 150 NEWCOMERS, BLOCKED TRAFFIC AND PELTED POLICE WITH STONES. POLICE ARRESTED 26 PERSONS. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT SEVERAL SIMILAR SIZE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE CONTINUED ON DECEMBER 19. FORMER FEDERAL MINISTERS HAFEEZ PIRZADA AND MUMTAZ BHUTTO APPEARED IN SIND HIGH COURT DECEMBER 19, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED PPP SUPPORTERS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE PEACEFUL IN FRONT OF THE COURT, THIS GROUP MAY HAVE STARTED THE PRO-BHUTTO DEMO NEARBY LATER IN THE DAY.

4. THE URDU JANG REPORTED DECEMBER 19 THAT FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN RIVAL STUDENT GROUPS AT GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN SARGHODA. TEN PERSONS WERE REPORTED INJURED, ALTHOUGH NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE GIVEN.
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5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL AT THIS STAGE IF THIS SPATE OF MINOR INCIDENTS IS PART OF A PATTERN INTIMATESIREF-TEL, OR A SPONTANEOUS VENTING OF FRUSTRATION OR BOTH. WE ARE READDRESSING KARACHI'S 5598, WHICH DETAILS EVENTS OF DECEMBER 18 TO DEPARTMENT FOR INFO.
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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